

P. O. Box 77, Palm Desert, CA 92261. . . . .NEWSLETTER  
Telephone: (619) 346-6113 February 1983

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. . . .NOW!!!

Our Annual Luncheon will be held Saturday, March 19th at the Monterey Country Club, on Monterey Drive, about one mile north of Fred Waring Drive. Cocktails 11:30 to 12 noon, lunch at 12 o'clock. \$10 per person including tax and tip. Reservations, please.

This will be your only invitation. Make your reservation by completing the form below and returning same with your check, prior to March 12th. A program is being arranged which will honor one of our members.

DUES will be due again April 1, 1983. If you have not already paid for the 83-84 year, you may wish to complete that portion of the enclosures which pertains to membership dues, returning same with your check to cover.

The revised roster will be distributed at the luncheon to paid up members only.

BE THERE . . .



Plaque will be dedicated at the Fire Station on El Paseo March 3 - 11 A.M., marking this original facility.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

An Ordinance of the City of Palm Desert, providing for the designation and preservation of Historic Sites was reviewed in a study session on February 3rd. Mr. Steve Becker, County Historian appeared before Palm Desert City Council as the first step. We will be notified fifteen days in advance of the Public Hearing.

We assisted the Indian Wells City Council in making a presentation to them of the Historic value of the Cavanaugh House (Thompson home), as also of the sites for them to preserve of historic importance in their city. Excellent input from entire council.

Mrs. Rheo Lawman, Mrs. Anne Carpenter and John Kennedy drove to Cherry Valley for a meeting at the Edward Dean Museum of the Historical Resources Study members, and have now in our office the complete file of sites and structures of historic importance in the entire cove community area which we surveyed. These have already proved of immense value to members and concerned community citizens who are doing research in the communities of La Quinta, Indian Wells and Palm Desert.

John Kennedy

Enclosed are (my) (our) ches for 1983-84: NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual. . . . . \$10
- Family . . . . . \$15
- Contributing. . . . \$25
- Sustaining. . . . . \$100
- Patron . . . . . \$250
- LIFE. . . . . \$1000

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



Enclosed is check in amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the Annual Luncheon to be held March 19th at Monterey Country Club, Palm Desert.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per person)

ADDRESS & PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_



The following are excerpts from the tape made with Mrs. Helen Dengler, when asked "What brought you to the desert?":

Tony Burke was an up and coming real estate agent who brought Jack out here to the Ranch and introduced him to Colonel & Mrs. Haner. This was in 1946 and Jack was looking for a place away from the cities to raise his family. Colonel and Mrs. Haner were warm and cordial and were wanting to sell this property. But they said, "You can't get any idea about this place unless you stay here at least for a night or two." Imagine selling property like that. So Jack spent the night with them, looked all around, noting that they had little irrigation ditches around the oleander hedges where there were a jillion tamarisk trees.

It was just a jungle, with the buildings in a state of almost falling apart. The main lodge was here, a few out-buildings and a barn. Jack was enchanted with these people and the feeling of desert hospitality. He returned to Santa Barbara where we were living at the time, to talk all about the California desert.

Well, I'm a Madison, Wisconsin person, and I like green hills and lush trees... and I really thought he was out of his head. However, soon we drove the two hundred miles down to see the Ranch, when the wind was blowing...sand and everything, and it was just repulsive to me. I just couldn't imagine anything worse, nor could I see any possibility in it whatsoever.

There was this original building with its lobby. Then there also was an original ranch house (which Jack eventually enlarged and enlarged instead of tearing it down, which we often thought in later years we should have done). So, the Ranch grew like Topsy, which I think has given it its character. There were other little buildings, a little outhouse and shack. It had been a school for asthmatic children which the late Will Rogers had sponsored. Originally it had been called the Eleven Mile Ranch. I don't know why we never considered continuing its original name. We just decided that when you're starting a new project, you have to have a new name. So Jack made a long list of all the names that he could think of in the desert that described the desert. He thought that Desert and Palm had been overdone. So, after all these various combinations, the vote came up for The White Sun, which exemplified this intense, brilliant, wonderful light that exists here in the desert. It was something new and different...And that's how the name came about.



*Historical Society of Palm Desert*

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